

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07777 061005Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 PER-01 A-01 SS-15

NSC-05 USIA-06 /047 W

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R 060854Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4207

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 7777

FOR EA/PHL

MEXICO: FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RP, PFOR

SUBJECT: SPECULATIVE ARTICLE ON AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

BEGIN: UNCLASSIFIED: (P1) AND EVENING POST (P2)

THE FOLLOWING STORY APPEARED IN ORIENT NEWS/FRIDAY, JUNE 6,  
UNDER HEADLINE "SULLIVAN'S DEPARTURE ELICITS SPECULATIONS";  
QUOTE: HIGH GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES ARE AGOG OVER THE  
SUDDEN, QUIET DEPARTURE OF U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM H. SULLIVAN LAST  
WEEK, WHO LEFT POST HASTE FOR WASHINGTON OSTENSIBLY TO GO ON VACATION  
BUT WHO LEFT BEHIND MANY LOOSE THREADS TO UNRAVEL, THUS ELICITING  
INTENSE SPECULATIONS ABOUT HIS FUTURE CAREER AS A DIPLOMAT.

"AT BEST SULLIVAN'S UNEXPECTED RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY, AT A TIME  
WHEN HIS SERVICES HERE ARE NEEDED MOST, IS 'MYSTERIOUS,' INFORMED  
SOURCES SAID, HINTING AT A POSSIBLE PERSONAL CATASTROPHE FOR THE  
DIPLOMAT.

"HIS ABSENCE IS FELT ALL THE MORE ACUTELY INASMUCH AS ANOTHER U.S.  
OFFICIAL HIGHER THAN HE IN RANK AND DESIGNATION - PHILIP C. HABIB,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIA (SIC) AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS  
-- IS SET TODAY TO CONFER WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS AT MALACANANG ON  
MATTERS CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES. HABIB IS  
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PAGE 02 MANILA 07777 061005Z

THE SECOND OFFICIAL SENT BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AFTER ADMIRAL NOEL

GAYLER, COMMANDER OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES PACIFIC, TO CALL ON PRESIDENT MARCOS FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

"IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT IN SEPARATE TALKS HELD BY MR. MARCOS WITH SULLIVAN AND ADMIRAL GAYLER, THE AMBASSADOR WAS MORE AGITATED THAN GAYLER OVER THE NEW AND HARDLINE PHILIPPINE POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. BASES HERE AND THE MUTUAL DEFENSE AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TREATIES CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES.

"THIS INDICATES TO OBSERVERS THAT SULLIVAN'S PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN INDOCHINA AS A DIPLOMAT OF GREAT CUNNING WAS DEPENDED UPON HIS GOVERNMENT TO PRESERVE U.S. DOMINANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES. HIS BEHAVIOR DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, THEREFORE, WAS INTERPRETED BY SOME SYMPATHETIC OFFICIALS AS UNDERSTANDABLE ANXIETY OVER HIS FUTURE STANDING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT PLEASED WITH THE FACT THAT HIS BEST EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO SOFTEN OR DIMINISH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S RELENTLESS DRIVE TO RE-NEGOTIATE RP-US SECURITY AGREEMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE BASES TREATY." END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENT: KERIMA POLOTAN-TUVERA, U.S. BAITING EDITOR OF THESE TWO NEWSPAPERS AND FRIEND AND BIOGRAPHER OF THE FIRST LADY, HAS SURPASSED HER OLD RECORD FOR RUMOR-MONGERING WITH THIS FANCIFUL PIECE OF COPY. PERHAPS SIGNIFICANTLY, NO OTHER NEWSPAPER HAVE PICKED UP STORY, NOR HAVE THERE BEEN PRESS QUERIES TO DATE. (IF ASKED, WE PROPOSE EXPRESS SURPRISE THAT ANY KNOWLEDGEABLE READER WOULD BELIEVE SUCH WILDLY SPECULATIVE STORY, ADDING THAT THERE NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER TO SPECULATION AND THAT AMB SULLIVAN RETURNED TO U.S. ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED HOME LEAVE.)

WHILE STILL UNCLEAR WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR STORY, IT POSSIBLY AIMED AT CASTING RP IN LIGHT INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT AND HARD-NOSED BARGAINER WHICH GIVING US FITS ON EVE MARCOS TRIP TO PRC. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. PURNELL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPECULATIVE ARTICLE ON AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN BEGIN: UNCLASSIFIED: (P1) AND EVENING POST (P2)  
**TAGS:** PFOR, RP, US, (HABIB, PHILIP C), (SULLIVAN, WILLIAM H)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006